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# Pro-Israeli Militia Reported To Mistreat Arab-American

By DAVID K. SHIPLER

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WASHINGTON, April 15 — The State Department and the Israeli Embassy said today that an Arab-American was mistreated after his arrest in southern Lebanon by an Israeli-backed militia in February.

The man, identified as Ghazi Dabaja of Dearborn, Mich., said he had been tortured with electric shocks and lighted cigarettes.

The State Department expressed "strong concerns" to Israel about the incident, a spokesman said.

Although Mr. Dabaja was reported to have sworn in an affidavit that an Israeli had supervised his torture, the Israeli Embassy in Washington said the abuses had been halted by an Israeli officer who was assigned to monitor the interrogation after the prisoner's American citizenship became known.

The embassy spokesman, Yossi Gal, also provided unusually detailed intelligence reports to support an accusation that Mr. Dabaja had acted as an agent of a Shiite Moslem guerrilla movement and, at the time of his arrest, was plotting to kill four officers of the Israeli-backed militia.

Mr. Dabaja, reached at his home in Dearborn, declined to respond to Israel's charges, saying he was afraid of endangering his father and other family members who live in the Lebanese village of Bint Jbail, near the Israeli border. "I got a family in Lebanon, O.K.?" he said. "Nobody can promise to keep my family secure."

## Naturalized American Citizen

Mr. Dabaja, a naturalized American citizen, said he was 29 years old and had lived in the United States since 1976. He said he was a salesman of imported goods and had gone to Lebanon for an order of shoes.

His home village is in a buffer zone controlled by a Christian-run Lebanese militia, the South Lebanon Army, which is supplied by Israel.

"Because of the close advisory relationship," said Bernard Kalb, the State Department spokesman, "Israel bears some responsibility for the actions" of the South Lebanon Army.

According to Mr. Gal of the Israeli Embassy, Mr. Dabaja made at least two trips between Lebanon and the United States in the two months before his arrest on Feb. 12. Some of his relatives "have been very active in the Amal security apparatus," Mr. Gal contended. Amal is a Shiite militia that has carried out attacks on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.

In Beirut and elsewhere, the Israeli spokesman asserted, Mr. Dabaja met with "hostile elements connected with the Amal security apparatus" and planned the "liquidation" of four officers of the South Lebanon Army.

## 'Improper Treatment' by Militia

Mr. Dabaja was arrested and interrogated by the officers he had planned to kill, Mr. Gal said, and the South Lebanon Army "used methods unacceptable to Israel on the prisoner." He said Mr. Dabaja had been subjected to "improper treatment."

Mr. Kalb of the State Department called this "apparent mistreatment."

Mr. Gal denied that any Israeli was involved in torture of Mr. Dabaja. When Israeli officers intervened, he said, they transferred Mr. Dabaja from militia custody to a detention center in southern Lebanon. On March 18, he was turned over to an American diplomat at the Israeli border.

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